

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 152 345 A

(43) Application published 7 Aug 1985

(21) Application No 8500421

(22) Date of filing 8 Jan 1985

(30) Priority data

(31) 8400672 (32) 11 Jan 1984 (33) GB

(51) INT CL⁴

A01G 9/02 A47G 7/00

(52) Domestic classification

A1E 8

(56) Documents cited

GBA 2070403 US 4006558

US 4149339

(58) Field of search

A1E

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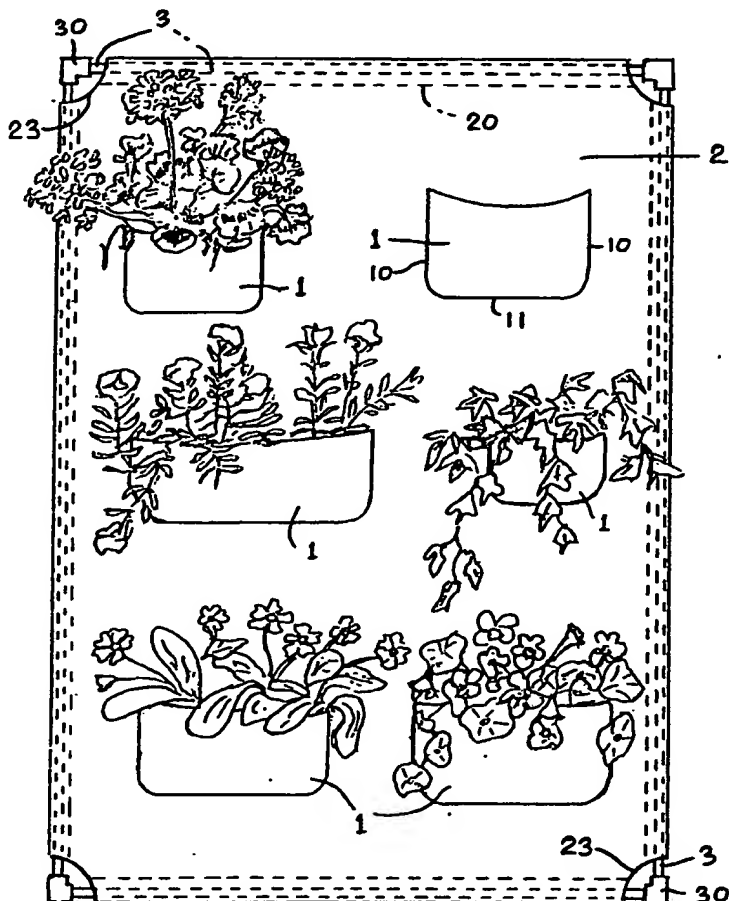
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(54) Plant holder

(57) A plant holder comprises a backing sheet (2) supported on a rigid frame of rods (3) and is provided with pockets (1) in which the plants and their growth medium are placed. The pockets and/or the backing sheet may be made of a durable, fibrous water-permeable material which allows water to drain from the pockets but retains solids and semi solids such as the growth medium, or of a material which is perforated for drainage.

The plant holder can be hung vertically, thus allowing display and growth of the plants under favourable conditions.



GB 2 152 345 A

SPECIFICATION

Plant holder

The object of this invention is to provide simple and effective means for holding one or more plants under favourable conditions as regards growth and maintenance and also for display and ready access. Practical advantages in these respects will be apparent from the following description.

Basically according to this invention a plant holder is characterised by one or more open pockets of durable material permeable to water but not to solids or semi solids such as soil and secured to a support backing, the or each pocket being adapted to receive at least one plant set in a planting medium such as soil, sand or the like therein.

A practical example of the holder is shown in the accompanying drawing in front elevation.

In practice the holder would usually consist of several pockets 1 of durable water permeable and flexible material secured to a backing sheet 2 of the same or similar material.

The material employed is preferably a geo-textile material such as ICI "Terram" or similar material and which in addition to the abovementioned properties is of adequate strength, rot proof and non distorting, (i.e. against sagging). In order to be water permeable yet capable of retaining soil, sand, peat, compost or the like the material is of a woven or non-woven (i.e. fibrous) nature for suitable porosity. Alternatively the material may be non-porous with small drainage holes provided in each pocket.

The pockets 1 are secured by their side and lower edges 10, 11 to the backing sheet 2 in any suitable manner such as by sewing, adhesive or by heat fixing or "welding".

The backing sheet 2 may be stiffened such as by rods or tubes 3 inserted in turned over or hemmed edge portions 20 of the sheet 2, the rods 3 being joined by corner members 30 at cutaway corners 23 of the sheet 2 to permit insertion of the rods 3 into the edge portions 20 and their push fit assembly with the corner members 30 to provide a substantially rigid support frame.

The holder can be produced in a wide variety of sizes, shapes or arrangements for indoor or outdoor use and advantageously can be suspended e.g. on a wall or may be arranged for free standing support e.g. by suitable strut support. The pockets 1 may be regularly arranged or irregularly positioned on the backing 2 and of different size as shown.

The particular example shown in the drawing can be suspended or otherwise supported as a "hanging garden" for the attractive indoor or outdoor display of decorative flowers or other plants with the added advantage that they are readily accessible in the

pockets for watering and/or other horticultural attention.

The holder can also have further practical application in or for a kitchen for holding in the pockets 1 such plants as herbs, spring onions, chives, bean shoots and so on for culinary use and also for attention and ready selection as required. Particularly in such a case the backing 2 may consist of or be attached to a sheet or panel of rigid plastic or other material, the whole structure being of convenient size for kitchen or similar use.

Growth of plants from seeds or bulbs can be also carried out in the pockets 1.

The holder may also carry various horticultural accessories such as one or more irrigation units for conveying water to the pockets 1 with support for the or each unit being provided by the backing sheet 2 or by other means as may be necessary.

Various modifications may be made within the scope of this invention especially as regards the mode of support of the backing 2 and support structure entailed whilst the invention also includes kits of parts e.g. pocketed backing sheets 1, 2, reinforcement rods 3 and corner members 30 and/or other support structure ready for assembly of the complete holder.

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for carrying plants or the like comprising at least one pocket secured to a support backing, the or each pocket being adapted to receive therein at least one plant set in a planting medium such as soil, sand or the like and being permeable to liquid but not to solids or semi-solids such as soil.

2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the or each pocket is of a woven material.

3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 where the or each pocket is of fibrous material.

4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein said support backing is of a woven material.

5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein said support backing is of a fibrous material.

6. Apparatus as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 wherein the or each pocket is of flexible material.

7. Apparatus as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein the support backing is of flexible material.

8. Apparatus as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 wherein said support backing is supported on a substantially rigid support frame.

9. Apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein said support frame comprises a plurality of rods detachably inter-connected to form said frame.

10. Apparatus for carrying plants or the like substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.